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Cache County prospers despite economic downturn.

Things are booming in Cache County. The retail sector continues to grow up north with a flurry of new businesses scheduled to open this fall. Included among the new businesses are **Pier 1 Imports, Ross Dress For Less, Fazolis, Only \$1.00 Superstore, and the Les Schwab Tire Center.** The Department of Workforce Services has been actively involved in assisting these new retailers and in recruiting to meet their staffing needs.



New Les Schwab Tire Center



North Main Development Site

Most of these businesses participated in the Cache/Box Elder County Job Fair. This annual event attracts job seekers and employers from all of northern Utah and southern Idaho. The job fair was held on Thursday September 4th at the Bridgerland Applied Technology College. In previous years, over 30 employers and more than 2,000 jobseekers attended.

On the economic front, Cache County's unemployment rate continues to be the lowest in the state holding at 3.3 percent for the month of July. With a strong manufacturing base, growing retail sector, continuing agricultural and construction employment, and a healthy mix of government, education and service industry jobs, Cache County has a very diverse economic base. This diversity has been a major factor in maintaining a low unemployment rate and a healthy local economy.



Entrance to North Main Development Site

State of Utah

Department of Workforce Services



North Region
Harold Hess
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News You Can Use

Submit Your Unemployment Insurance Appeal Online

The Department of Workforce Services (DWS) is excited to offer Utah employers an easier way to submit their unemployment insurance appeals. Employers now have the option of filing their appeals online. To file online, you must be registered with the DWS' Unemployment Insurance Division and been assigned a Personal Identification Number (PIN). It is easy to register with DWS online at: jobs.utah.gov

The following outlines the steps for filing an appeal online. Although there are a number of steps, it is quite simple.

1. Go to jobs.utah.gov
2. Under "Quick Links" choose "File an Appeal."
3. This form is only for registered employers. Choose "Employer Appeals."
4. Enter your State Identification Number and your PIN. Your PIN was assigned to you when you registered with the Unemployment Insurance Division. If you don't remember your PIN, click on "Need Your Pin?" and enter your Federal Identification Number in the appropriate box. Click "continue."
5. On the screen titled: "Confidential Information & Services," Choose the option entitled "How to Appeal Unemployment Insurance Determinations."
6. Choose "Submit Appeal Electronically."
7. On this page you have the option to file an initial appeal (if you haven't already had a hearing with an Administrative Law Judge) or to file an appeal to the Workforce Services Appeals Board (if you're appealing an Administrative Law Judge's decision.)
8. Complete the form and submit.

After submitting your appeal, you will receive a confirmation. Make sure you keep track of that number. You will receive correspondence from DWS advising you of the time, date, and place of your hearing within four weeks of submitting the appeal. If you have questions about your appeal status or the appeals process in general, call the Appeals Division at (801) 526-9300.

DWS' Mission is to Connect Business with Solutions

We are grateful for the opportunity we have to serve you. If you have never used us, or if it has been awhile, it is time to check out what we have to offer.

Whether you are looking for employees, want to improve your workplace, or face laying off some of your workforce, we have all the solutions you need in one place.

- **Hiring and information solutions.** We can help you find the people you need to grow, and furnish the labor market information you want for solid business decisions.
- **Consultative solutions.** We want you to succeed and can connect you with a limitless number of solutions that enhance your workforce and grow your business.
- **Downsizing solutions.** We can ease the transition for your business and employees in the event you have to reduce your workforce.

At DWS, we are committed to connecting your business to the solutions you need. Visit us online at jobs.utah.gov or call us 1-888-920-WORK and let our team help yours!

Unemployment Insurance Claims Remain High

Benefits paid to Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claimants continue to remain at high levels in 2003 (January through July). Although down 11 percent compared to the same time last year, over \$143 million have been put into the Utah economy through the payment of regular UI claims.

Additionally, UI has paid claimants over \$31 million in Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) benefits and over \$9 million in State Additional Benefits.

How many people in the economy do these numbers represent? 57,000 have filed claims for regular UI, 13,000 for TEUC, and 8,000 for State Additional Benefits.

Accessing Wage Data is Now Easier and Faster

Are you interested in how your pay compares to others in your occupation? Wondering what salary to offer for that position you need to fill? No matter who you are, or what your reasons are, we know you are interested in wage data. Fortunately, accessing Utah wage data (and other data as well) just got a lot faster and easier.

A new tool on the jobs.utah.gov Web site, called the Utah Economic Data Viewer (UEDV), has just come on-line and it can simplify your search for information. Let's say you want to use the DWS Economic Information Web page to find out what the typical entry-level wage for an electrician is in Tooele County. In the past, this would require you first selecting the appropriate publication for wage data, then the right table, and finally, the occupation from an alphabetized list. But now, using UEDV from the main Economic Information page, you simply specify the parameters of your search, and UEDV retrieves that information from a database and builds you a chart just for the information you request.

Here is how it works: First, on the main page jobs.utah.gov/wi/, scroll down to, and click on UEDV. Then select the specific tool you want to use-in this case, the *Utah Occupational Wage*

UEDV | UTAH ECONOMIC DATA VIEWER

Data Viewer. Specify the geographic area you are inquiring about, then the occupation. Occupations can be specified by key word, occupational title, or a drill-down through broader occupational groups. Once you have set your parameters, click on "submit" and receive your customized chart showing the occupation you chose, in the area you specified, with its Entry, Average, Median, and Middle Range wages. You can also see the training that's typically required for the occupation, or even get a description of the occupation by clicking on the title. In addition, one click converts the hourly wage to a yearly figure.

The UEDV also can be used to quickly access other data: labor force data, such as employment numbers and unemployment rates, either seasonally adjusted or not, and population for the state as a whole or county (and multi-county) data.

More databases are being developed, so look for even more types of data to be available through this fast, easy tool in the future.

jobs.utah.gov Web site Offers Many Options For Customers

Since the official launch on November 2002, the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) Web site, jobs.utah.gov has been an unqualified success. By August 2, 2003 the site logged its 900,000th self-assisted job referral. In fact, it has already logged its one-millionth referral. Several enhancements to the Web site have allowed employers to conduct all of their transactions online. Other enhancements allow claimants to file all types of Unemployment Insurance claims on the Web site.

For the second quarter of 2003, 8,290 employers filed their quarterly unemployment taxes online. This is an increase of nearly 1,000 employers from the previous quarter. Besides registering and filing their quarterly reports, employers can reopen accounts, file their wage data, change ownership, make their own address changes and close their accounts.

The site has seen a steady increase in job referrals users every month. During the month of July, 154,793 self-referrals were made. This represents 67 percent of the total referrals made by DWS in July. One year ago, all of these referrals would have been made within the department's Employment Centers. In July, 8,925 new job seekers registered with DWS, 5,300 of the registrations were completed on the web, representing nearly 60 percent of all new registrations.

Currently there are approximately 35,000 job referrals on the Web every week. During peak hours there is an average of about ten referrals every minute. The DWS is taking seriously Governor Leavitt's challenge of making government available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. On weekends and holidays we typically get over 1,000 referrals a day.

Utah Department of Workforce Services

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Recruiting Information**Contact Numbers**

Lofthouse Foods Opens New Facility in Ogden Business Depot

Lofthouse Foods closed their Washington state plant a few months ago and moved the cookie lines to the new Ogden facility in the Ogden Business Depot. Lofthouse also has a plant in the Clearfield Freeport Center.

The Clearfield plant produces approximately one million cookies a day and ships them out daily to local merchants. They are in the process of moving all of the lines and expect to have them all moved to the new plant in Ogden by April 2004.

In July, Lofthouse Foods came to the Ogden Employment Center (EC) to recruit employees for the new Ogden plant. Lofthouse recruiters were at the Ogden EC for two days and hired a total of 66 people from the many qualified applicants. Lofthouse Foods was very pleased with the response and the services received by the Department of Workforce Services.

DWS welcomes Lofthouse Foods to Ogden!

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